



PILOT PROGRAM FOR TN VISA APPLICANTS AT TORONTO'S PEARSON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

On April 26, 2005, U.S. Customs and Border Protection will implement a TN Pre-Qualification pilot program for a period of ninety days ending July 26, 2005. Interested TN applicants (Canadian citizens who meet the criteria established under NAFTA and who will be employed in a qualifying occupation in the United States) are invited to apply for pre-qualification on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. in Terminal 3. This is a pilot program available only at Toronto Pearson International Airport.

During the above hours, a pre-qualification officer will be available to interview the applicant and review all necessary documents. The applicant should present documentation related to their education and experience, in addition to a detailed letter from their prospective employer. Those having graduated from foreign schools must have an equivalency evaluation of their credentials performed prior to application. If the applicant is pre-approved he or she will receive a written notice. This notice must be presented within fourteen days at Toronto Pearson International Airport pre-clearance for admission into the United States in the TN category. No fee will be taken for the pre-qualification process. However, if approved, a fee of \$50 USD will be taken when the applicant is traveling and is admitted into the TN category.

If an applicant does not qualify, they will be advised on what is lacking in the application packet and given instructions on the appropriate recourse.

For more information please contact Supervisory Customs and Border Protection Officer J.M. Guzik at 905-676-2606.

Fact sheet on TN Visas

The visa category "Professionals Under the North American Free Trade Agreement" is available only to citizens of Canada and Mexico, under the terms of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

Qualifications for a "TN" visa

A citizen of a NAFTA country may work in a professional occupation in the U.S. provided that all of these conditions are met:

1. The profession is recognized under NAFTA.
2. The alien possesses the specific requisites for that profession.
3. The position requires someone working specifically in that professional capacity.
4. The alien is going to work for a U.S. employer.

Note: The spouse and unmarried, minor children of the principal alien are entitled to the derivative status, but they are unable to accept employment in the United States. Aliens entering under this classification are considered non-immigrant and granted TD status at time of entry (Canadians) or are eligible for non-immigrant visas in the TD category from the Department of State (non-Canadians).

How to obtain a "TN" visa:

To qualify for admission under this classification, citizens of Canada, at the U.S. port of entry, shall:

1. Request "TN" status.
2. Provide proof of Canadian citizenship.
3. Provide evidence of the applicant's degrees, diplomas, employment records and any other pertinent documentation that establishes qualification for the prospective employment. Those applying as scientific technicians/technologists should have evidence of the professional credentials of the person that they will be working in direct support of in the proposed position. Those applying for health care occupations require the appropriate certification.
4. Provide a letter from the prospective U.S.-based employer offering him/her a job in the United States. It must include details describing the specific duties that comprise the employment.
 - This job must be one which is included on the list of professions under NAFTA, Appendix 1603.D.1.
5. Pay a fee of US\$ 50.
 - Canadian citizens are not required to obtain a visa, but instead will receive a document evidencing the applicant's legal "TN" status as determined by a Customs and Border Protection Officer (CBP) at the port of entry.

"TN" non-immigrant status is meant by law to be temporary in nature. It is not meant to serve as a basis for obtaining permanent legal residency.

For more information, visit <http://www.usembassycanada.gov> or <http://www.amcits.com/nafta.asp>